Mayor's  Commission on GROUP RELATIONS

Room 214, City Hall, Newark 2, New Jersey
Telephone Mitchell 3-6300
Ext. 281

LEO P. CARLIN, Mayor
MARIANO J. RINALDI, Business Administrator

ALEXANDER MARK, Chairman
LEONARD L. HOLMAN, Vice Chairman
DANIEL S. ANTHONY, Director

Until this year our Commission has been able to maintain a modicum of peaceful intergroup relations, through quiet persuasion, conciliation and prevention techniques. We have all good intentions of continuing along these lines in our over-all educational operations.

On the other hand the world, national and local situation of intergroup relations is altering at such a rapid pace, I sincerely believe we must keep in step with the changes.

In my estimation you are the person who must take the responsibility for initiating these changes in vision and in actual practice.



For instance, last night 3 active local . . . organizations called upon the Commission for a Private Fair Housing Practices Act for Newark, similar to the law now being bottled up in State Senate Caucus.

We were asked to prepare such an Ordinance for passage by the city council. If we fail to report action on this request, you will be criticized as well as we. Morally, we are beholden to live up to the tenets of the constitution of the U.S.

Of course, if such a law were to pass the Council, it would require at least 3 additional staff members to administer it. These are some of the problems I face as I consider your gracious invitation to serve another term of office on your Commission.

If I have your support + follow up for consideration of our immediate staff problems,

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In 1960-61 our nation and City have witnessed a general up surge of mass protest activity against inequality of opportunity in all areas of human relations

I guess this complex world is undergoing radical changes faster than most of us individuals in the field of human relations can keep up with them. What with the supreme court decision, the sit-ins, the Congo situation and the massive Negro unemployment in our area, the whole state of growing anxiety and unrest is now being felt locally.

The thinking minority groups are beginning to look for leadership and ACTION from your Commission on group relations. If we fail to give that leadership, I'm afraid we

and You, because of the title (Mayors name in our) ... are going to be expected to take a more forthright role in their fight for total equality.

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Certainly we have been doing all we can with our limited staff assistance, but this is not a sufficient excuse for those who know that New York City has a staff of 50 and Philadelphia a staff of 35 to see that all people get their just deserts.

In accepting your kind request for another year, I am afraid I shall have to ask you once again to see that we get the two additional staff members we requested, so that we are not in essence a "window dressing" operation.